

I believe most Americans will welcome it as well, especially considering we all want what is best for our children and grandchildren.

I will close with the cautionary words of George Washington's 1796 farewell address:

"We should avoid ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden of which we ourselves ought to bear."

CALL TO ACTION FOR THE CHILDREN OF KATRINA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD "Witness for Justice #269" entitled Invisible People, published May 22, 2006 by the United Church of Christ of Cleveland, Ohio. The statement, one of a series of observations on the state of justice in the U.S. today, eloquently written by Carl P. Wallace, Executive Associate of this Church on 700 Prospect Ave. in Cleveland, criticizes the ineffectiveness of the current administration in contending with the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Wallace warns us, "Right before our eyes we are losing our children" as they continue to remain invisible in the eyes of the relief and aid workers in the Gulf Coast. Katrina orphaned thousands of children whose ordeal is prolonged due to inadequate health care, public education and housing services. "One in three sheltered children in the Gulf Coast region has some type of chronic illness." Almost none of them have health care coverage. Highlighting the fact that one-fourth to one-fifth of the children in America are growing up in poverty, Mr. Wallace suggests, and I concur, that the 1.9 trillion dollars of tax cuts would be better employed to provide health care for 9 million uninsured children and mitigate child poverty.

I also join Mr. Wallace in questioning the reason behind this invisibility of our children. Are they invisible because "they do not vote, lobby or pay taxes?" Is it acceptable to allow these children to be neglected, even abused? What happened to compassion and human kindness? Mr. Wallace ends on the hopeful note that through prayer and action "the invisible can be made visible." The Children's Defense fund has already released a "Call to Action for Katrina's Children," that focuses on providing immediate health and health services and quality public education, as well as, creating an enduring support base for such endeavors.

I join Mr. Wallace in all his concerns and call upon my colleagues in the Congress to alleviate the suffering of children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

[From Witness for Justice #269,

May 22, 2006.]

INVISIBLE PEOPLE

(By Carl P. Wallace)

Ever wonder what it would be like to be invisible? You could go around and nobody would see you. Nobody would know you existed. Do you remember playing hide and seek? Wow. If you were invisible you could always win the game because no one would

be able to find you. "Ollie Ollie ump fee. I'm coming to find you." What a game. Those who could hide the best always won the game. It was great being invisible until you discovered that if no one cared to find you, you really did not win. Regrettably, there is a similar game being played in the Gulf Coast. Our children appear to be invisible. But it is no game. It is a situation of life and death. And right before our eyes we are witnessing the most devastating reality of what it means to be invisible in the richest country in the world. Right before our eyes we are losing our children.

We are literally losing our children due to the lack of adequate health care, public education and housing. There are over 125,000 displaced families in the Gulf Coast. In a Red Cross shelter north of Birmingham, Alabama there are over 2,000 children who have lost their parents. In a FEMA trailer park outside of Baton Rouge 700 of the 1,670 residents are children. In the richest nation in the world one-fifth to one-fourth of our children are growing up in poverty. Of the 1.9 trillion dollars of tax cuts, which will give the richest 1 percent of all tax payers \$57 billion each year, we could instead provide health care for all 9 million uninsured children and end child poverty in America. Wow! Centuries ago Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do nothing to hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14). Maybe we missed Jesus' request.

Sometimes I wonder where our priorities are. A wise man once said: "Where your heart is there also is your treasure." Are our children our treasure? It is extremely painful to note that one-in-three sheltered children in the Gulf Coast region has some type of chronic illness. Are our children our treasure? In the Gulf Coast region one-half of the children who had some level of health coverage do not have any now. Are our children our treasure? Did the need for health care coverage just disappear? Have a heart. I guess invisible people don't need health care.

Let's think about it. Perhaps our children are invisible because they do not vote, lobby or pay taxes. Let's think about another point. Can you imagine what it must be like to be undocumented and in this situation? Is there such a thing as double invisibility?

The Children's Defense fund released a "Call to Action for Katrina's Children." It calls in part for: immediate emergency mental health and health services for children and their families; quality public education and after-school and summer education; as much attention focused on constructing levees of support for strong health care, family and public education as they will for the construction of the physical levees that will hold back the water in future storms; and, prayer for Katrina children and families and for leaders who work for justice. Prayer and action will make a difference. Our children must be made visible.

Maybe, just maybe, if we lift our voices to make these maybe known our children will not disappear right before our eyes. Maybe, just maybe if we take action we will not lose the least of these. Maybe, just maybe we will find our treasure. The invisible can be made visible.

"Ollie, Ollie ump fee. We're coming to find you!"

URGING TOLERANCE AND PEACEFUL CHANGE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express concern about the sharp rise in hate crimes and racial intolerance, and to urge acceptance in our Nation.

A recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center stated that there were 803 hate groups in the USA last year. This is up from 762 in 2004 and is a 33 percent increase since 2000. The Center's report stated the national debate that has focused on immigration has been "the single most important factor" in spurring activity among hate groups and has given them "an issue with real resonance."

Hundreds of thousands of people marched peacefully throughout the Nation to give a voice for immigrants in this country. Half a million in Los Angeles, 300,000 people in Chicago, 40,000 in Washington, DC, and 20,000 in Milwaukee and Phoenix marched to defend the hopes and dreams of immigrant families. Nearly 40,000 students across Southern California, including students at several schools in my district, marched for the rights of immigrants.

Those who marched did so peacefully. I encourage everyone to remember the great history of change driven by nonviolent action, which is such a vibrant part of our Nation's fabric. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but I urge that such expression be done in a peaceful and non-threatening manner.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support putting a stop to the Federal Aviation Administration's abusive and dishonest tactics in negotiating a new contract with the nation's air traffic controllers.

Under an unprecedented interpretation of current law, the FAA is claiming the ability to declare an impasse in negotiations and impose its terms. But such a unilateral action is patently wrong and unfair. It's long past time for Congress to return the parties to an equal footing and get them back to the negotiating table.

I hope that my vote for H.R. 5449 will send a strong message. The agency ought to cease misrepresenting controllers' salaries. If, as the FAA claims, salaries are truly exorbitant, then the agency shouldn't hesitate to enter binding arbitration. The FAA's desire to avoid arbitration speaks volumes about the weakness of its arguments.

Working under incredibly stressful and difficult conditions, air traffic controllers protect the safety of millions of Americans. I hope the FAA will follow Congress' lead in affording them the respect they deserve.